

REMARKS

Claims 77-96 are pending in this application. No claim amendments have been made in response to the instant office action.

OBJECTIONS TO THE DISCLOSURE

The Examiner objects to the disclosure because the cross-reference to prior applications needs to be updated to include the current status of the parent application. Applicants have amended the specification to state that U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/068,892 filed on February 11, 2002, has now become U.S. Patent No. 6,690,347. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the disclosure.

OBJECTION TO THE ABSTRACT

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the Examiner's objection to the abstract. Applicants have amended the abstract so that it is within the range of 50-150 words. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the abstract.

DOUBLE PATENTING

The Examiner rejects claims 77-96 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-76 of U.S. Patent No. 6,690,347.


In order to obviate the double patenting rejection and place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants file herewith a Terminal Disclaimer under 37 C.F.R. § 1.321. The filing of the Terminal Disclaimer is not intended to be, nor should it be construed as, an admission as to the merits of the rejection.

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Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the double patenting rejection.

An early and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may telephone Applicants Attorney to reach a prompt disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael F. Morano", written over a horizontal line.

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